

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 RSR-01 EB-11 /092 W

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R 181523Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1638

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1638

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: DA OVIP (OLESEN, KJELD)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER TO U.S.

REF: STATE 139476

1. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT VISIT BY KJELD OLESEN WHILE HE IS STILL DEFENSE MINISTER WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HIS PROBABLE SELECTION AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) IS INTENDED TO PREPARE HIM FOR EVENTUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND, POSSIBLY, FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP. CONSEQUENTLY, WE AGREE THAT HE SHOULD BE CULTIVATED AND THIS COULD BEST BE DONE WHILE HE STILL BEARS TITLE OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

2. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT HIS VISIT SHOULD PREFERABLY TAKE PLACE AFTER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS SEPTEMBER 16-19. THE SDP IS IN CONSIDERABLE PRE-CONGRESS DISARRAY WITH VARIOUS FACTIONS SHOVING FOR STRATEGIC POSITIONS, INCLUDING THE POSITION FOR WHICH OLESEN IS CLEARLY FRONT-RUNNER. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES A VISIT SHORTLY BEFORE THE CONGRESS WOULD VERY LIKELY BE CRITICIZED AS AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE INTERNAL PARTY AFFAIRS.

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3. WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE RESHUFFLE OF THE GOVERNMENT,

INCLUDING OLESEN'S DEPARTURE FROM DEFENSE POST, WILL
NOT OCCUR UNTIL ABOUT NOVEMBER. WE WOULD SUGGEST,
THEREFORE, AN OFFICIAL VISIT SOMETIME IN OCTOBER.
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Message Attributes

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